Computerised Audit System to detect abnormal pricing in imports and exports

*291. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 361 given in the Rajya Sabha on 25th February, 1997 and state:

(a) whether a computerised audit system could detect the abnormal pricing in import and export leading to huge capital flight from the country. If so, action taken in this regard; and

(b) if not, the action plan of Government to arrest the capital flight, as detailed in the study made by Dr. Zdanowicz and others?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of the study made by Dr. Zdanowicz and two others US based economists, in which they have concluded that there has been huge capital flight from India to the USA in 1994, 1995 and 1996, on account of over invoicing of imports and under invoicing of exports. The general belief supported by actual detections is that imports are under invoiced to evade cutoms duty and exports are over invoiced to garner larger export incentives.

The Government has set up a Directorate of Valuation. One of the functions of this Directorate is to build up a comprehensive computerised data-base of the prices of the internationally traded goods and disseminate the same to the Customs formations. This data would provide useful information for the evaluation and auditing of import and export price declarations. The Directorate would also monitor the valuation practices.

A project for the computerisation of customs assessments, including data base relating to prices, is presently under implementation. The computerised database would assist in the proper verification of import and export price declarations and help detect cases of under or over-valuation of goods as the case may be.

Election Commission's suggestion for not allowing candidates to contest election from two constituencies

*292. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Election Commission has suggested that no condidate should be allowed to contest election from more than one constituency;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to amend the election laws to incorporate the suggestion of the Election Commission; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposal to restrict candidates to contesting elections from more than one constituency was discussed by the Government with leaders of various political parties but there was no consensus amongst the political parties on the proposal. There is, therefore, no proposal at present to amend the election laws to give effect to the proposal.

External Assistance by India Development forum and Asian Development Bank

*293. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pelased to state:

(a) the quantum of external assistance India is likely to get from India Deve-

lopment Forum and Asian Development Bank during the current financial year; and

(b) the projects on which the assistance is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) At the India Development Forum meeting held during June 23—25, 1997 in Paris to dicuss aid requirements of the country, the bilateral and multilateral donars pledged an Official Development Assistance (ODA) of US$ 6.74 billion to India. Out of this, Asian Development Bank has pledged an amount of US$ 800 million.

(b) The details of the projects for which the loan will be utilised will be known only after the aid negotiations/agreements with donar countries/institutions are finalised.

Community TV Scheme for installing TV sets in Villages

*294. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. are aware that State Govt. of Gujarat has evolved a Community TV Scheme for installing TV sets in villages, particularly in tribal areas of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Govt. are providing assistance to State Govt. to make the scheme a success; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) The Communiy Viewing Sets are mainly installed in backward|border areas by different states, including the state of Gujarat. These are normally installed in schools and Panchayat buildings. Installation and maintenance of the Community Viewing sets is the responsibility of the concerned State Government/UT Administration out of their own funds Locations of installations of Community Viewing sets is also decided by the State Governnment and the UT Administrations and such information therefore, is not centrally maintained. In case of Gujarat no assistance from the Central Government has been provided.

(c) and (d) The Central Government is not providing any financial assistance to the State Governmment for insallation of community TV sets. However, Central Governments has been, through Doordarshan, providing programmes that are viewed on such sets.

Allotment of space at Terminal II of IGI Airport to Revenue Department

*295. SHRI TARA CHARAN MAJUMDAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airports Authority of India has allotted a 15.63 sq.m. space at Terminal II of IGI Airport to the Revenue Department to set up an Air Intelligence Unit to check flow of unaccounted cash, jewellery and electronic goods from or to the country;

(b) if so, details thereof with progress made by Revenue Department to make use of the allotted land;

(c) wheher Government propose to set up a similar unit at the domestic airport of Delhi.

(d) whether Government also propose to set up AIU at other metropolitan cities of the country; and

(e) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has allotted to the Revenue Department a space measuring 15.63 sq. m. in visitor's viewing gallery at Terminal-II of the Indira Gandhi International Airport to set up an Air Intelligence Unit